

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 01956 121541Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 DHA-02

IO-13 TRSE-00 AID-05 PC-05 ACDA-10 ERDA-07 OES-06

/115 W

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P R 121500Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 510

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

UNCLAS BRASILIA 1956

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, BR

SUBJ: PRESS AND OFFICIAL REACTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS EPISODE (MARCH
10-11)

1. SUMMARY. PRESS COVERAGE OF U.S./BRAZIL HUMAN RIGHTS DIS-
PUTE FELL OFF SHARPLY MARCH 10-11, ALTHOUGH CONSIDERABLE
REPORTING AND UNFAVORABLE COMMENT WERE DEVOTED TO BRADY
TYSON EPISODE AND USG DISAVOWAL OF HIS REMARKS IN GENEVA. IN-
COMING AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF BRIGADIER DELIO DECLARED
BRAZILIAN DEVELOPMENT WOULD NOT BE HALTED EVEN BY "INCOMPRE-
HENSION OF TRADITIONAL ALLIES," BUT FORESAW ONLY BRIEF DISTUR-
BANCE IN RELATIONSHIP. CONTENT OF EDITORIALS AND PRESS CONTENT
TENDED TO SHIFT AWAY FROM PREVIOUS FOCUS ON "INTERFERENCE"
SIDE OF EQUATION AND TO CONCENTRATE ON HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDER-
ATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGING ABUSES, PRAISING GEISEL'S IMPROVEMENTS
OVER MEDICI REGIME, AND URGING PRESIDENT TO TAKE FURTHER STEPS
TOWARDS FULL DEMOCRACY. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESS COVERAGE OF U.S.-BRAZIL HUMAN RIGHTS DISPUTE FELL
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PAGE 02 BRASIL 01956 121541Z

OFF SHARPLY ON MARCH 10-11, AS ATTENTION SHIFTED TO GOVERNMENT'S
DECISION REVERSING IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPULSORY DEPOSIT SCHEME
FOR GASOLINE SALES, AND TO RELEASE OF OFFICIAL WHITE PAPER
DEFENDING FRG/GOB NUCLEAR ACCORD. HOWEVER, CONSIDERABLE
COVERAGE WAS GIVEN USG DISAVOWAL OF BRADY TYSON'S REMARKS
IN GENEVA ON CHILE. O GLOBO'S TREATMENT INCLUDED BRIEF INTER-
VIEW WITH TYSON HIGHLIGHTED BY LATTER'S DECLARATION, "I AM

SURE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF BRAZIL IS MAKING GREAT PROGRESS IN REPRESSING THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE COUNTRY. PRESIDENT GEISEL IS DOING GOOD WORK." JORNAL DO BRASIL EDITORIAL MARCH 11 CITED TYSON CONTRETEMPS AS SYMPTOMATIC OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION DIPLOMACY, WHICH REFLECTS OLD CONFLICT BETWEEN PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMATS AND OUTSIDERS, SUCH AS TYSON AND YOUNG, WHO ARE BROUGHT IN TO PROVIDE NEW IDEAS AND INITIATIVES. LATEST EPISODE SUGGESTS STATE DEPARTMENT IS WINNING THAT STRUGGLE, WHICH IS FORTUNATE, ACCORDING TO JORNAL, SINCE ONE NEEDS NOT MERELY IDEAS BUT A TACTICAL SENSE OF WHEN AND WHERE TO EXPOSTULATE THEM. O ESTADO LAUDED CARTER'S CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, BUT CRITICIZED THE TACTICS EMPLOYED. HYPOCRITICAL AND "OBSCENE" HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, DECLARED O ESTADO, WAS NOT A CONGENIAL FORUM, ALTHOUGH ONCE HAVING INTRODUCED MOTION ON USSR, US SHOULD NOT HAVE WITHDRAWN IT IN FACE OF CERTAIN DEFEAT, BUT STOOD ALONE, IF NECESSARY, AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE AND LEADERSHIP. TYSON EPISODE, MOREOVER, WAS A DAMAGING AND ALL TOO CHARACTERISTIC PIECE OF AMATEURISM.

3. PRESS ALSO GAVE ATTENTION TO SPEECH MARCH 10 BY INCOMING AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF DELIO JARDIM DE MATTOS, WHO LAUDED THE "NATIONAL WILL" WHICH UNDERPINS BRAZIL'S STRUGGLE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND THE "SPECIFIC WEIGHT" IT ALREADY HAS IN WORLD STRATEGY, AND DECLARED, "THE EFFORT OF THE BRAZILIAN PEOPLE TO OVERCOME THE BARRIERS OF POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, WILL NOT BE STOPPED BY ANY DIFFICULTIES, NOT EVEN THE INCOMPREHENSION OF TRADITIONAL ALLIES." HE ADDED, HOWEVER, "WE ARE CERTAIN THAT TODAY'S INCOMPREHENSION IS A PASSING INTERFERENCE IN THE COMPASS WHICH FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 BRASIL 01956 121541Z

CENTURIES HAS BEEN GUIDING OUR COMMON PATHS."

4. ARENA VICE LEADER HERBERT LEVY, IN JOINING CHORUS OF CONGRESSIONAL PRAISE FOR WHITE PAPER ON NUCLEAR ACCORD, REFERRED TO HUMAN RIGHTS EPISODE, DECLARING U.S. SHOULD CONDEMN TERRORISTS, NOT THOSE WHO COMBAT THEM IN DEFENSE OF LIBERTY AND HUMAN RIGHTS. SIGNIFICANTLY, LEVY ADMITTED THAT NO ONE COULD AFFIRM THERE HAD NOT BEEN EXCESSES IN BRAZIL, DUE TO ATTRACTION OF SADISTIC ELEMENTS TO THE REPRESSIVE ORGANS; HOWEVER, HE AFFIRMED THAT GOVERNMENT HAD NEVER ADVOCATED OR ACCEPTED SUCH METHODS, AND POINTED OUT SACKING OF II ARMY COMMANDER AS ONE EXAMPLE.

5. OTHER COMMENT TOOK ON A MARKED PRO-HUMAN RIGHTS FLAVOR. SAO PAULO'S CARDINAL ARNS IN O ESTADO JUSTIFIED GOB POSITION AGAINST EXTERNAL INTERFERENCE, BUT PRAISED "NEW ATTITUDE" OF U.S. IN DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, AN ATTITUDE SYMPTOMATIC OF U.S. IN DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, AN ATTITUDE SYMPTOMATIC OF GROWING CONCERN IN ALL FREE NATIONS, AND SUGGESTED THAT

WHEN REPORT IS PUBLISHED, BRAZILIAN REACTION SHOULD GO BEYOND PROTEST TO A RE-EXAMINATION AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF LOCAL INSTITUTIONS.

6. O ESTADO ARTICLE BY CARLOS CHAGAS TOOK AS ITS POINT OF DEPARTURE AFFIRMATION THAT FIRST SENTENCE OF REPORT GIVES RECOGNITION TO THE CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT BY GIESEL IN HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD. CHAGAS DECLARED THAT WHILE GEISEL HAS NOT DONE ALL HE SHOULD, HE HAS DONE MUCH, AND NOW UNFORTUNATELY IS PAYING THE PRICE FOR THE REPRESSIVE PRACTICES OF THE MEDICI REGIME, WHICH CHAGAS PROCEEDED TO REVIEW IN HIGHLY CRITICAL TERMS.

7. FOLHA EDITORIAL PRAISED GEISEL'S ACTIONS IN REPELLING "INSOLENT" TERMS FOR U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND IN WITHDRAWING GASOLINE DEPOSIT; CITED UNPRECEDENTED POPULAR BACKING THESE STEPS HAVE BROUGHT THE PRESIDENT; AND EXPRESSED HOPE HE WOULD UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 BRASIL 01956 121541Z

USE THAT SUPPORT TO TAKE ANOTHER LARGE STEP TOWARDS DEMOCRATIC IMPROVEMENTS. SIMILARLY, O ESTADO CORRESPONDENT CLOVIS ROSSI DECLARED THAT MANIFESTATION OF "NATIONAL WILL" REPRESENTED BY GOB FIRMNESS ON NUCLEAR ACCORD STUMBLED IN CASE OF HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT OVER FACT THAT VIOLATIONS DO OCCUR. TRUE MANIFESTATION OF NATIONAL WILL, DECLARED RSSI, REQUIRES EFFORTS TO END ABUSES ONCE AND FOR ALL, REVOCATION OF AI-5, MAINTENANCE OF THE DIRECT ELECTIONS WHICH EXPRESS THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE, AND A MORE OPEN PROCESS OF POLITICAL DISCUSSION AND DECISION-MAKING. THE "POLITICAL-DIPLOMATIC-ECONOMIC IMBROGLIO" CANNOT BE UNDONE WHILE THE CONCEPT OF NATIONAL WILL SUFFERS LIMITATION.

8. FINALLY, COLUMN IN FOLHA PRAISED TYSON, YOUNG, AND CARTER FOR THEIR SHOW OF CONSCIENCE AND REFUSAL TO BE CORRUPTED BY POWER, AND LAUDED RENEWED US PREOCCUPATION WITH HUMANITARIAN CAUSES, AS CONTRASTED WITH OPPORTUNISTIC BEHAVIOR OF PUBLIC MEN "HERE, BELOW THE TROPICAL LINE." CRIMMINS

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